



"Tar's Hyde Your Head in Your Hand too if You Had in Ynyth Outho Lan Changy as THE PHANTON OF THE OPERA", "moons Claude Rollin Leep ages 441. Set HI'll be o roisy day on the Saharo Bearth before the screen cames up with a finer ector; and, rain or shine, we believe This Issue of FAMOUS MONSTERS is one you'll give Thouts for at Thanksgiring.

DIG monsters? Bet your life you do! So gull up a plate of tanaberry sauce and let's talk Turkey. (Count Dracula talks Transvivanian, the Frankenstein Monster talks broken, and we here at the FAMOUS MDNSTERS pad-that's short for padded cell-talk Turkey. Like right now Vamuira is saying, "Pardon me, Clark Gobble, but that's my red-polished fingernall, not a cranbury, you just stuck your fork into.") As we think about Thursday 24 November-

iksgiving Day-we may all be grateful for: Horror stars like Boris Karloff, Vincent Price, Peter Lorre, Lon Chaney Jr., John Carradine, Anton Diffring, Christopher Lee and Tor Johnson, among the living; and Lon Chaney Sr., Bela Lu-Lionel Atwill, George Zucco, Edward van Sloan, Conrad Veldt, Colin Clive and Rondo Hatten among the dead.

We can be thankful for screenwriters like Jimmy Sangster, Richard Matheson, Curt Slodmak, David Duncan, Robert Bloch . . . make-up artists like the Westmore Bros., Harry Thomas,

Bill Tuttle . . . special effects aces like Ray Harryhausen, Ned Mann, Louis De Witt, Willis D'Brien ... producers like George Pal, the Hammers, Rod Serling, Alex Gordon, James Nichelson, William Castle . . . and names to look to for the monsterpieces of the future, like Jon Lackey, Ron Cobb John Flory, Burt Schoenberg, David Hewitt, Klaus

Unbehaun and William Moore. And, if I may immodestly point out a fact of consuming interest to no one by myself, my Mother and my Life Insurance Agent-MY birth day (yes, your Very Dwn Beloved Editor's) falls on THANKSGIVING this Lean Year! If every one of you loval readers will lead to your pigpy bank and send me a \$1 bill as a taken of your love and affection. I can retire to Transvivania for the rest of my unnatural life and write my memolrs.

Please pass the pun-kin pie. FORREST I ACKERMAN (Editor) JAMES WARREN (Publisher)



Last month we locked artist Jack Davis inside our office coffin and wouldn't lot him of Mr. Kestman returned and took the magazine Concressment cut ustil be down an illustration for our Letters Page. After three days Jack got hungry and, glung it back to the owner. "Hare's 25c and finally agreed to also us the picture of. Please get me a copy." And he's been buying FM the top of this page, Like it, gang? Here we on with this issue's mail- same good, some bad, but all interesting-

COE STRIKES AGAIN in the last some of FM (Letters Parel) there was a picture of Frank Coe made up as a Wolfman Is this the same Frank Con who scored everyone half to death at the Alpha Epision Pl Frateralty party et U.C.LA. this post summer? GARY WELLS

DIG HONSTER ON CAMPUS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Yes hel it was! The shots shows frank in the coalcine be were at the time.—Ed.

NEW FAM Here's proof that FM is the greatest one day the bays in my class wore in work-shop. One bay brought EAMOUS MONSTERS (and pough along When our abon instructor, Mr. Kaufman, left the

over siece SEARNY, N. J.

ACKERMAN'S ELEPHANTS I think FANOUS MONSTERS is the greatest thing rance believising. I have the whole collection and think thry're all terror ris. The only thing wone is I've been seeing little pink Askerwans letely Wart should I do? ASSOCIATE H. CREEN

· Seed for our free backlet "Now to Raise Ack ermans, for Fun & Profit -- 66.

FAN SOUNDS OFF for many years before the first issue of your megazine appeared I was an end fee of herror and monother movies, Naturally FM increased my interest that much more. After reading your intest case I started thinking (notify operating) the honor movies of the post with those of the present. In the last two years, with few excepbors, the crap of horror movies has been liftered with chose, pictiess stories—glorified advertising

dom does filmland come out with a decent forear release. The English are about the paly producers to turn set a borrible horror moves that has qualits in 1935 the horror movies took a turn, and since ther have mally been firther bottom I would like to see an account to this letter by Mr. Ackerman I think he would support my opinion. ST. KHANSBURY, VI

m Carl, we call your effective to the erticle MENACE ANTONEY by the renowned Robert Block -or sere 22. This is the first in a clarged series el critical pieces on the state of borrar movies. It's right up your pilori-Ed.

READERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD Enclosed is a meture we took during a visit to com, we all exthemed around the managine and Transforms last week Now loar will it be before

to his desk Then he glanced through it. We all welched him as he read it, "This is great," he KINN A HA MEETING TWO MEN DENAMEDS STRIANT KERESTAN



rattpiracie. But don't keep your bats in the

LOVES COVER four last cover Officeet Price-#9 local was jest about the greatest thing you've ever close for us Noester Fero I pissed by a consistent and are Veccel attenty out at me-and I was care pirtoly mesmercedi I purchased 2 copies. You two me 25el No tay having opens I can't report FI DESIRES N. Y

e Artist Gagos desurses the credit; how de you like this month's cover?

ur claws are itching to write us out a letter and mail it to-FAMOUS MONSTERS
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FORREST JACKERMAN editor production JAMES WARREN nublisher

Colone in Alan Salar materia, copy







FANG MAIL Letters received by the Editor from the United Stakes Ghost Man, written by the Monsters we love best-the

6 THE TOMB MACHINE From Mummies to Time Travelers, from Zombies to Space Voyagers, our Forecasticon (Patent Pending)

probes the Future for News of Fantastic Films to Come -and a Few that are Here Now. SON OF MAD LARS

You'd be Mad too if your Brain Surgeon didn't suture fancy

HELP STILL WANTED It's a pretty terrible THING when we have to ask readers for Help-but here's a way to help us and help Yourself to \$25.00. 22 MENACE, ANYONE?

Robert Bloch, famed Author of PSYCHO, psychoanalyzes Movies of the Macahre, It's the Last Word on Weird Films from the Merchant of Menace, the Man who has the Brain of a Genius . . . and refuses to give it back despite Donovan's piteous pleas. Seriously: This is a serious article of research and opinion and we are anticipating your favorable reaction.

30 MONSTERS WERE HIS MEAT

Old Mongo Proverb say. "A Gordon the hand worth two in the bush." And Flash Gordon was never bushed; In response to Hundreds of letters, here at last is the complete Gordon story -told in exciting Flashbacks for his millions of



THREE CURRENT THRILLERS TORMENTED (you'll shiver) . . . CALTIKI (you'll shake) . . . THE LOST WORLD (guaranteed to keep you awake).

RETURN OF THE PHANTOM You can't creep a Good Monster down. The Orge of the Opera revives after last issue's Phanting Spell. MONSTER MARKET PLACE

Botter than the Scares-Roebuck Catalog! Everything you need to make you a Better Monster: Home Horror Movies, LP Records, Masks, Clawa, Monster Kits, Decals, Skeletons, Skulls, Projectors, and you-name-it-wehave-it.



OMB

machine

our tomb machine
was invented
by a well
e-crypt scientist,
of corpse!
it wastes no
time in getting
underground to the
grapevine, and
here's all the
fine julcy news
it squeezed out
at press time.



THE RETURN OF THE TIME TRAV-ELER! Yes, because you miscrable Morlocks and empty-headed Eloi asked for it, Rod Taylor is going to ride again on his trusty Time Machine, George Pal is planning some big adventures for Rod in the



means of technique called Hypendhagic. Here Joe Partridge is demonstrating haw to hand out Eye Owe You.

Meet Candibar, son of ZANZIBAR, Personally, offer en-



would of the far future, but at one point in the picture his authennolise will risk getting justly when it travels in the reverse direction, back thousands of years to the watery days of the legendary Island of Allantin According to Goorge's just completed picture, ATLANTIS, THE LOST CONTI-NENT, there were monsters in those days too: sub-human slaves, bypaotized and trained to be beasts of hurden.

hot time

Time itself seems to be the bot new subect for thrilleramas, and BEYOND THE TIME BARRIER follows hot on the beels of THE TIME MACHINE. JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN, an exciting timetravel tale oning in both directions, back to prehistoric times and forward to post-atomic mutations, is planned for production in Reno, Nevada, by Independent Artists Mo-tion Picture Corporation. Ib (ANGRY RED PLANET) Mekhior is scheduled to direct JOURNEY INTO THE UN-KNOWN, and the new company includes 2 other "chronportation" stories in its future plane: TIME WANTS A SKELETON by Ross Rocklynne & FJAckerman, and IEND FROM THE FUTURE by Larry Maddock & Weaver Wright, David L. Hewitt, the corporation's promotion manag tells us: "Our CREATURE FROM THE 4th DIMENSION will be sure to please readers of FAMOUS MONSTERS, and I think they'll like our proposed telefilm seriss. SATELLITE COMMAND. We own a special process, SpectraMagic, that will be featured in some of our more important color productions. We are keen about Trina Petit, and plan to cast her in THE DAY THE ADULTS DIED, which is our teenag answer to THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL

Producer Sum X. Abarbanel phones to say that in THIS TIME TOMORROW will the produce the produce of the top of the cell lumbred years after the Atomic Warthat all but wipes out mankind, to a world where human beings and humanoids distificially created fleab-robots in the form of people) are in conflict.

vampires and irate vamps

An Istanbulletin from Gio Scognamillo, our Turkish correspondent who keeps an





This inventor used to write soegs on Tin Pon Alley. Now he has a lin use any who composes
like "I Was A Tin Age Can-Cae Descer". (From THE MUMMY VS. THE HUMAN ROBOT.)

"When I agreed to let you ese my head for football, you sold it would be for possing anly-mot for pent formation!" (From MISTERIOS DE ULTRATUMEA-which, if we can trest our broken Sponish, means MYSTERIES FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.)

eye on Italian films for us, informs us of a veritable bloodbathful of boogie pictures which have been shot in Pizzascope and

Spaghetickolor:
THE MILL OF THE STONE WOMEN
... a weint tale dealing with a mad scientist
whose daughter is suffering badly from a
blood deficiency. The absormally pale
young lady requires daily transfusions of
the real McCoy (beet jurie or crategy slingly,
which is the visitity of paper is peptically
lab wind up on a slab—turned to stone in
the process of having their lood drained

from them!

SEDDOK. . . the tragedy of a beautiful ballerizable his borribly disfigured in an ballerizable his borribly disfigured in an periments on ber face with a new process in order to regenerate her human skin cells and return her besuty. Dose he succeed or does she become Italy's female answer to SCARFACE.

THE VAMPIRE'S LOVER . . . a female vampire, living in an old castle, transforms all ber male admirers into living dead like herself. In turn, the male vampires seek surcesse for their unholy thirst in the nearby







Legosi coesults his wetch to see if (as Karloff's dactor) it's time to give Baris aeother shot ie the arm. (From THE BLACK CAT)

village, which is conveniently loaded with young ladies bursting with red corpuseles. In the end, the vampira and her satanic servant are trapped on the Sunny Side of the Street, and you know what a disastrous effect a ray of sunshine has on one of the undead!

effect a ray of sunshine has on one of the undead!

And here on the American front, Mardi Gras Productions (see of Murder Grue's Productions) announces "the horror sensation of the year in Ultrascope and blazing color, featuring Evotic Voodoo Rituals— THE DEAD ONE!"

scandinavian serpenterror

While we're waiting for First Fotos from Sweden, where REPTILICUS has been produced, we have a direct word-of-mouth description of the awesome beast from the author of the filmscript himself, Ib Melchior. Mr Melchior reveals exclusively to readers of £4MOUS MONSTERS that bis

monitore over bil into the air! The body of Replition is long and slender—innote scilly analox-libe—soith a long plinble tail; the recent was to covered with huge overlagining stick out from between the scales, especially stick out from between the scales, especially around the neck; the rear legs, on which it stands, or stardy and squal; the forelegs are stardy and squal; the forelegs crued clause. From the buast's disease spreads a pair of huge long tapering using—almost libe grant to starge. On the long neck size a

—the head of Reptilicus!

Reptilicus' head resembles a deformed cross between the usly triangular head of a



Far a real tallaw-vision thriller, what picture can hold a candle to BEAUTY AND THE BEAST?

rattlesnahe and the malicious features of a vampire bat. Huge slit-pupilled eyes gleam coldly and cruelly: venom-dripping fans menace from the slimy gaping maus; and bony scaly protuberances give the whole misbegotten monster a savage demoniacal annergance.

appearance.

And the lovable feature about Ole Rep is that you can tickle his 'tilicus with a hand-grenade or cunnon and blow it clean off, but like a starfish be'll just grow another!

Brother!

the noose reel

Hanging fire for future production are dozens of diabolic, demoniac, dinosauric, draculatic and just outright dread-full pictures such as: THE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND. HANDS OF TERROR and THE HANDS OF ORLAC. THE WITCHES and THE WERE-WOLF. THE 2 FACES OF DR JEKYLL... THE FIRST DAY OF WORLD WAR 3

THE GIRLS PROM PLANET 3.
LEVELT, A and COACHES WAITING,
THE AMPHIBIANS AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND TO THE AMPHIBIANS OF BANKS THE EXPERIMENTS OF DE ZARIN
THE FUND CONTINERS. THE
FRIZING CONTINERS.
THE GIRLS CONTINERS.
THE HORSES AND HOMICIDAL
THE HUNGHBACK OF ROME.
INSIDE THE MOON JACK THE
LORD OF THE FULLS. MASK OF

THE DEMON . MASTER OF THE WORLD (Jules Verne) ... MONSTER IN MY BLOOD ... and the first science fiction feature in amazing Rotascope! END



HEBE'S ONE Gestions of Existicities Yau Dan't West to Accept on TYE ONE YOU from—this DEATH'S DEPUTY on Societive by I. Rev inchard one created by relief to Geldelane, FAMOUS MONTHS recommends DEATH's DEPUTY as barror bit material to Alfred Hitchshock and William Ghostle; or, fee-wewling, Rod Sarriing for Die Right Zoek.

7 VA





clectronic equipment to build a better mousetrop. Jeff Marrow is building his for only \$799,999 and a book of green stamps.

It is axiomatic that behind every Great Scientist is: His Mother?

His sweetheart? A little dog?

A borde of angry bill collectors?
A copy of FAMOUS MONSTERS?
Wrong on all scores!
A laboratory!

to elaborate

In our previous article we considered the plight of Franken without a telesio, Donovan without a van and Dr. X without his x-rays. We draw your sitention, now, to the creator of THE FLY. And what, pray tell, would be have been without his electric flywheat? Just another dyslown nobody. Like the invisible Main: no body. The provious control of the provious of the world of the provious control of the provious world on the provious control of the provious control o ped on the set with Mad Scientist Lionel Atwill, "I never could have made the transition from man to monster if the director hash"t ordered that scientific set built and then directed Lionel to place his hand on the lever of the atomic ray-cannon and Fire At 1991."

tube he or not tube be

As William Shocksparse once said, "The test of the tube is whether it is first-glass or not," Who can ever forget the fantastic laboratory in Bill's big success, "The Mod Doctor's Nightmane". Feshape you can, as yelvania, where it was burned (slong with its director). But one print (beavily dotored) escaped, and it is sometimes shown on the Late Late Late Show (consultines referred to as TV's Too Late Nies Showless Sammer Night Dream", speasored by your finedly neighborhood medico.





Eric vali Strateum in The CRIME OF DR. CRESTI. His crime: saggy Crespi-Cru

A German-built lab tar THE GAMMA PEOPLE. As the boy at the right said the first time he saw it, "My, Gamma, what big eyes yau have!" Of caurse, he said it German, at least that's what we were told by Little



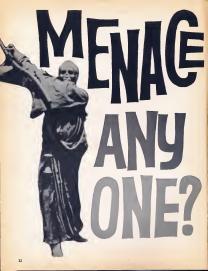
(A doctor in the house, after roading the foregoing paragraph, was on affected by it that he volunteered to remove Your Editor's tonsils free of charge. And I am thinking of taking him up on his generous offerhut can anyone who's had the operation tell me: is it customary to operate thru the ears? and with a rusty pair of ice tongs! ?)

no labbing matter

In all seriousness, think back on such thrillers as THE MAN WHO LIVED AGAIN, PRANKENSTEIN 1970, THE GAMMA PROPILE, THE MAN THEY COULD NOT HANG, METROPOLIS, THE DEVIL COMMANDS, GOG and THE MAGNETIC MONSTER and ask younger on the halonotory sequences from the continuated to the suspense and thrills.

That's why I'm betting you'll line up at the hacks-office if you see a title on the marquee like THE HOT LAB GAS-FLAME MONSTER. Introducing that fiery star destined to set the world ahlane: Bunsen Burner! END And this is the spot where FAMOUS MONSTLES hope resetually to above you a picture of THE THINE! Can you capture a forter of THE THINE! Can you capture a forter of Monstare? FAMOUS MONSTERS WILL GIVE A FREE LIFE TIME SUBSCRIPTION OR PAY \$25.00 CASH TO THE FIRST ONE WHO CAN FILL THIS PAGE WITH A FOTO OF

THING



A Serious Survey of Important Fright Films By Robert Bloch

Robert "Hitch"-Bloch wrote the book from which Alfred Hitchcock made the shrick "a" shock film,

PSYCHO.

Robert Bloch scripted the Stay
Tuned for Terror show, a radio series
running 39 weeks and

rating 3s are posseds (adapted from his own stories in Weind Tales magazine) as "The Bat is My Brother", "The Man Who Lost His Head", "Which is the Witch!", "The Grinning Ghou!", "The Beasts of Barea", "Horror Shou" and "Return of the

Monster".
Robert Bloch's psychological horror film THE SCARF, currently being revived on television.

Mr. Bloch has been Guest of Honor at a World Science Piction Convention and Roastmaster at a score or more of sci-fi conferences and conclaves. FAMOUS MONSTERS is proud to bring its more mature readers this

serious article by a world - famous author who is also a consider. able authority on fantastic films. Opinions expressed were those of Mr. Bloch several years aro, at which time a slightly longer persion of this article appeared in the semi-professional magazine Inside; and while they reflect his own conclusions, they do not necessarily represent the opinions of

the staff of PM, either

ROBERT BLOCH, Americo's Most Successful Split Personolity, He rides o Bi-Psycho Built for Two.

When I sat down to write this article, I

If was all going to be so absurdly easy.

"Do an article on old-time fantasy and science fiction movies in contrast to modern films," said the editor.

On the face of it, this pounded like a

On the face of it, this sounded like a simple enough request. I've seen a goodly share of the modern product, remember a fair number of older efforts, and have read a bir shout those I haven't seen.

So I decided the most logical way to approach the subject would be to merely list a few titles and then make comparisons. One boar later I had a list of 250 titles. And the cell was not yet. I could have gone on, except that I began to retaile this was a project. The tithes covered old-time science factor, old-time featurely incoders science factor, old-time featurely incoders science factor and instancy, conscience and now, palse "horror" movies, old and now, palse "horror" movies, old and new, palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror" movies and palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror" movies and palse "horror" movies and palse "horror" movies, old and new palse "horror"



FRANKENSTEIN. Here Dwight Frye, as the hunchbock, terrorises the Monster with torch.

New York drowns WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE in Geo. Pol spectacle which Bloch regords as a horror film disguised as cience fiction.



and let the yipes fall where they may.

In this entire list of 260 films (eliminating cartoons and nonsense cornedies, which run into thousands) I reach the following ratings:

Actual science fiction movies—4.
Actual fantasy-horror movies—36.
Are you surprised?
I was fisiblengasted.
But accepting my definitions, a recheck

confirmed by Batty of And by sefinitions were simple. "A second fixton moving." I decided. "Is a film where the accent rests primarily on the scientific concept." And: "A finatsay-horror movie is a film where the accent rests excent rests primarily on the scientific concept." And: "A funtasy-horror movie is a film where the scount rests primarily on the fantastic prense or the stimulation of horror in the audience."

Let's examine a few titles and see how this works. First, science fiction. What were the 4 titles which seemed to fulfill the terms of the definitions?

1. METROPOLIS 2. THINGS TO COME 3. DESTINATION MOON 4. THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD

Before the mosning starts, let's briefly exsmine these 4 films and see what we can learn, METROPOLIS and THINGS TO COME both show obvious intent on the part of their producers: to picture possible future worlds together with the everyday problems of their people. Fritz Long's film (METROPOLIS), viewed today, is a rather dated story, told in simplest black-&-white terms. The action is deliberately stiff: the masses of extras move in formal patterns and the acting of the principal players is exaggerated and grotesque. There is no illusion of reality anywhere except in a few of the technical effects in which the ITRA Studios of Germany excelled in the mid-20s. THINGS TO COME shares many of the same defects. The grotesque acting bas been replaced, in the main, by grotesouse dialogue-altho even as fine an actor as Sir Cedric Hardwicke indulges in a surprising amount of mugging. But besically these 2 films are honest in intent. They set out to do a job and try to do it without letting plot set in the way. Both carry the usual needless love interest, but it is very definite-

ly toned down.

DESTINATION MOON is perhaps the closest approach to a "documentary" in the science fiction field. Here again the emphasis is on the science fictional element, with the usual twists-&-turns of plot kept at a minimum.

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD



"Herror picture in science fiction disguise" is Bloch's opinion of THEM!

STILL is a message film, a story with a moral; but once again the emphasis remains constant, and there is a certain insight in the handling of characters and theme. Which brings us to any wardicks is the

Which brings us to our yardstick: is the picture honest in intent? Is the emphasis on the science fiction rather than the usual hackneyed plotting?

Use these questions and you'll see why

Use these questions and you'll see why many of the films ordinarily included in the science faction group do not belong there. Some of these pictures may be better (from the standpoint of technical effects, acting or that quarriling point, "sheer entertainment value"), but they are not science fiction according to this, definition.

All too many of them are merely "horrorpictures" in so-called science fictional disguise. Among these one can name, and recomize, such efforts as THE THING, THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS, WAR OF THE WORLDS, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, THEM!, etc. These and 20 oth-

COLLIDE, THEM!, etc. These and 20 others can be subdivided into 2 main plots; A. "Look out, boys, the Monster is lose!" B. "Look out, hoys, they're gonna destroy

the world!"
In Type A, the comphasis is not on science
but on the horror-menner. In Type B, the
emphasis is on how will the army plus the
handsome scientist hero and the beautiful
become destroy the creatures after enough
scenes of wholesale destruction are shown
thirsts types in those diseased by the blooddiriests types in those diseased; the blooddiriests types in those diseased; the blooddiriests types in those diseased; the blooddiriest types in the second section of the second sec

In both types your "science" is merely a "gimmick". You could use a fantasy monster or a purely physical menace and get the same effect. Some of these films (THEM), for example) are well done. Some are atrocious. But none are really, basically, honest science fiction.

And the same holds true in the fantssyhorror field. A surprisingly small number of them are honestly produced as "shockers". All too many are "vehicles" for an actor such as Lon Chaney, Karloff, Lorre, Lugosi, Atwill, Carradine, Chaney Jr, Rathbone, Rains, etc. All too many are "gimmick movies where the horror element serves as a foil for questionable comedy: the Abbott & Costello series, the Bowery Boys, THE BAT, THE GORILLA, THE CAT AND THE CANARY-the 3 latter having been made 2 or 3 times, each with various comics exhibiting fright. All too many are synthetic ("it's all a bad dream") or made purely to enable exhibitors to advertise them as fantasies whereas in reality they are straightor crooked-melodrama.

But the senuine fantasy-horror films do include such titles as: The first FRANKENSTEIN and DRAC-ULA ... QUEEN OF SPADES ... THE MIIMMY (with fine Willy Pogeny styling and good camera work by Karl Freund, in the original Karloff version) ... THE MAN WHO COULD WORK MIRACLES (sparked by the late Roland Young's performance, and notable for a brief glimpse of an unbilled and glamor-haired George Sanders in the prologue) . . . THE MAN IN THE MIRROR (a little-known British film of the 1930s starring Edward Everett Horton in a whimsy far superior to the Topper series or the ill-fated NIGHT LIFE OF THE Gods) . . . Dr X (very early 1930s Warner Technicolor film in which the science fiction element is used frankly in a commendable attempt to scare the dying daylights out of the audience).

Then we come to some more pseudo-exience fiction which is real fantaley. ... THE ISLAND OF LOST SOULS (Charles and Lagota having a fine time behind a lot of creps hair for deer old Paramount). ... THE MYSTERIOUS SISAND in the more, of all people, for kides rather than faithful adherence to Jules Verne). Val Lewton's CAT PEOPLE and its se-

more, of all people, for facists rather than faithful adherence to Jules Verne). Val Lewton's CAT PROPLE and its sequel are homest films, so is his BODY-SNATURER, with Kardeff, Jugods, and KING KONG, Bitch the allent LOST WORLD, seems honest to me, whereas the 10,000,000 BC. effort, the KING KONG ought, the MIGHTY JOE YOUNG rebash and the horde of UNKNOWN ISLANDS, TWO

LIGIT WORLIDS, etc., seem phony attempts to capitalize on something they never deliver; using the monsters as "page" and the females for box-office hair. But the original KONG, like the original Frunkenstein's Monster, was created for the simple purpose of making people shudder. And in their time—before all the repetitions, debunkings and cheapenings of the now-familiar themes— —they were completely effective.

—they were comoletely effective.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA as
a silent film with Chaney, in 1925, was completely terrifying, Rains' version had a realstic explanation, whereas the original was
the honest grue in a wholly fantastic world.

Creation of a wholly fastbatic world was the servet of the fastous German cleans makers of the 1280 THE GOLEM, in 5 words—West DESTINY, WARNING SHADOWS, THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI, WAKWORKS and FAUST were all played in a wholly make-believe universe where the supernstaral became correspondents.

The Germans cheated, too. They had their GENUINE (a phoney attempt to capitalize on CALIGARI) and their AL-RAUNE and many another. But for a time they made superb fantsay.

Douglas Pairhanka attempted to borrow both technical know-how and feeing for his HHEF OF BAGDAD, and a satisfying venture it was, too. The technical effects seem obvious today—but there is an honesty about this film which is sadly lacking in the Korda color-talkie version and the 4000 "ceiteath magie" films which have followed as vehicles for various Phoney Curtis-Yyoung de Grudlo troes.

The French got on the wand-wagon with Rese Clair in the 20s, and Coctasu added his toxobes, Films such as BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, BEAUTY AND THE DEV-IL ta fine Faustian epic with Michel Simon as Old Man Faust and Old Man Meghisto both; note the wooderful score by Roman Visal) are eminently satisfactory. So is ORPHEUS and LE VOYAGE IMAGIN-AIRE, to name but a few examples.

DR. CYCLOPS seemed to me to be a particularly absorbing borderline film. It could have been just another variant of the monster-is-loose theme, but Alkert Dekker's performance was a redeeming feature.

Unfortunately, movie makers seem to feel that obvious crud (THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, MA & PA KETTLE MEET DICK CLARK, etc) is more profitable than a fine job like ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY. The latter film





"MAD LOYE: meladramatic bet honest." In this Peter Larre version of "The Heads of Orice," Pete says to Calle Clive (lest seen as Victor Frankenstein): "Vic. I hear yes put tegether a pretty fair carcture: what do you thinh yee could do for me in the way of a saw head of hair?"

"A science fiction film with insight was THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL." At this porticeler moment in the film Patricia Neal, we feel, would rather be certised the speceship than insight with Gart the robot.



passed virtually unnoticed except by the

"arty" critics.
So did the early NOSFERATU, THE
HANDS OF ORLAC and the American remake, MAD LOVE with Lorre. These were
melodramatic but honest in intent and exexcition—as contrasted to the money-making Mad Doctors, Mad Geniuses and Mad
Magicians who parade from time to time
across the acrose no.

Producers also learn that while THE UN-VIVIED can produce silvers, it's safer to play ghost for laughs as BHITHE SPIRIT INTER CAN COURS WEST. And once or THE GHOST COUSS WEST. And once to a converse that is a borner-star but actually present thin in a feeble 'character role' and ordered him as a borner-star but actually present thin in a feeble 'character role' present the star of the course of the 'BOOT Haha, it's only a massid' or "Shoot of 'BOOT Haha, it's only a massid' or "Shoot of the course of the c

So we must all be grateful for the few opportunities it has provided for us to indulge wholly in that "willing suspension of disbelef" which provides imaginative satisfaction to the died-in-the-wool fan. But it's a pity scene of the old-timers I've-

But it's a pity some of the old-timers I've mentioned can't be revived. Despite the changes in acting style, improvements in camen technique, greater range of technical effects and elimination of stilted subtitles, some of these films had genuine power to frighten and fill with wonder.

The next time you attend a showing of a new "science fiction" movie, you might just think about that for a moment. Think about it while the film opens, a Young Scientist discovers a Weird Menace,

Young Scientist discovers a Weird Mennoe, the 2 or 3 minor characters (child, old man) get Killed Off, the Old Scientist arrives with his Beautiful Daughter or Niece, the Army Takes Over And is Baffled, the Monsters make their first open appearance, the Young make their first open appearance, the Young make their first open appearance, the Young description of the Circle of the Army and description of the Circle of the Army and description of the Circle of the Circle description of the Circle of the Circle description of the Circle of Desth man Dastruction thrills the sudience until God and the Intelligence Officers prevail.

Believe it or not, there are other plots than this one (which starving writers can no longer sell even for ½c a word). And believe it or not, there can be better movies. Too had there aren't more of them made ... and more times when we can be lifted, or scared, out of our seats,

Let's comb the dandruff out of the frightung!



Another science fiction borror film, by Bloch's definition: THE THING.

Note from the Publisher. My lazy editor, who complains about having to write the entire issue himself month in and month out, has for 3 years been bringing up the name of Robert Bloch and several others and begging me (or bugging me is more like lift to publish something by same. The foregoing article is in the nature of an experiment.

To bring MENACE, ANYONE? to you in readily readable form, FJA had to change many of the frighteningly crudite words in Mr. Bloch's envioble woodulary, such as "exceedings," "limned", "discionado", "hyperbole", "ersatz", "iourious", etc, on the theory

that if Your Publisher didn't understand them and couldn't pronounce them, then most of you young readers would probably be lost too, Seriously: this is a test case which, if successful, could result in bringing you further think-pieces from a variety of sources such as another Bloch-huster called "The Clown at Midnight", a study of the pictures of Poe by Giovanni Scornamillo, etc. Please let us know your reactions! Do you want an occasional perious article by an "outside" writer in future issues, or do you prefer that our editor continue with the same kind of all-Ackerman material that's been

featured heretofare?-James Warren

MONSTERS

Gocko, the Fire-Breathing Dragon...the
Bear Giant...the Shark Man...the
Robot Hordes...the Clay People...and
Ming the Merciless, Emperor of the
Runaway Planet, Mongo—he fought
them all, to save Earth from Interplanetary Peril: FLASH GOR<u>DON!</u>

In the Dark Ages before Television, Suiurilay was the engerly awaited day in the week, when the teenagers of the mid-90s

and early to crowded movie nouses across the land to see a platinum-haired here brandish his ray-gun and blast another





Flash Gordon and His Electric Hair-Curler prepares to give a butch to a batch of baddles outside the rochet's window.

Flosh Gardan (in cape) follows "Happy" Happaed to escape hatch in ROCKET SHIP, the name given the ariginal FLASH GORDON serial when it was re-released as a full-length feature.



beast or villain to bits. Flash Gordon, Prince of Interplanetary Peril, King of the Faturistic Comic Strips and Chieftain of the Fantastic Matinee Chapterplays! Flash Gordon, sworn enemy of Ming the

Merciless!
Merchess!

Merchess!

Rest Gordon, created on the screen by

Buster Crabbe.

flash in the flesh

Yes, Buster Crubbe, athletic champion, was the ideal choice for the role of Flash Gordon, pastfine of Earths active; in the Gordon, pastfine of Earths active; in the see that today, in television revivals of the original serials. If Space Soldiers comes to your TV screen (it was last widely seen in the early 50s), you'll be seeing what was originally released in 1953 as FLASH GORF. Space Soldiers' Trip to Mars is the TV Space Soldiers' Trip to Mars is the TV

title of FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS, originally released in 1938 and again running to 15 chapters.

FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSER, 12 chapters, was first senialized 20 years ago in theaters, televised 10 years ago as Space Soldiers Consumer the

halloween hoax

On the evening of 30 October 1838, THE WAR OF THE WORLDS by HGWells, the elder statesmen of science fiction, was duranted to the state of the state of the state of the named Oram Welles. So resistic was the presentation by Mr. Welles and the actors and technicians of the Mcreury Theater, that thousands of Americans were possistricken by the broadcast, which they accepted literally as a report of an invasion of

evil creatures from the planet Mars. Quick to capitalize on the Welles zere, Universal Studios hastily edited its second Flash Gordon serial, whose locale had been changed from Mongo to Mars, and released the market of the company of the company of MARS ATTACKS THE WORLD. Terror fans of the time saw the world wracked by howing harricones, substreed by bolts of lightning, drenched by tidal waves, till Flash and his guiffried Dale Arden and his scientally companion Dr. Zattov took off the till the companion of the companion of the menses and put an end to it.



The cause of the tremendous upheavals of Nature on Earth turns out to be a Nitron Lamp, a huge device invested for their ruler by the scientists who are the slaves of Dictator Ming. Plash and his friends reside they must destroy the Nitron Lamp before Rarth itself is made unbabitable.

thrilling

adventures

During the heart-pounding episodes of FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS, there are horrors galore and hair-breadth escapes as Flash and his friends Crash in the Valley of Desolation...

meet the Laving Dend...are captured by the Clay People...are imperilled by a hail of aerial bombs...are paralyzed by a rayrun...are pearly electrocuted...face the disintegrating force of the death-ray machine . . . and endure many other hardships, as you can surmise from a study of the titles

of the episodes:

New Worlds to Conquer . The Living
Dead . Queen of Magie . Ancient Enemies . The Boomerang . Treemen of
Mars . Prisoner of Mongo . The Black
Sapphire of Kalu . Symbol of Death .
Inconse of Forgetfulness . Human Bait
Ming the Merciles . The Miracle of

Magic . . A Beast at Bay . . and An Eye for an Eye. It would take pages and pages to do

It would take pages and pages to distinct to all of the adventures of Flash Gordon, and one of these days we might do just that! Of create a special Space Flash magazine to recount in full the activities of Flash Gordon, Buck Rogges, the Riders to the Stars, Phantom from Mars, Mutants of Metaluna. Set. How about that?



Flash bids farewell to Dr. Zarhav as Tin Can Men lead him and Dale Arden aff to dance the Can Gan to the rhythm of Xavier Koogut end his Manga Bangas!

the body and the beast

At the time Buster Crabbe was cast as Flash Gertine, be stood 171, weighed 188 lbs, had a 45° cheet, 22° waist, 17° neck, 16° call. (Your Editor was up for the role at the time, and I always thot it was sheer favoritism that I didn't get the part, as I had the same physical measurements as Flash, only maybe distributed a little different, like a 45° waist and a 32° cheet; then, of course, Ill have to confess, my bictops were only

It took a man like Flash Gordon to fight a monster like, for instance, the Gocko, which stood 11' tall, with the body of a small dinossur and a dragon's tall with a sharp hatchet edge, shaped like the prow of a Viking ship. The Gocko's bead was that of a horse, with mule-like ears and a saurian mouth staffed with teaks. Its torgue was a slashing swort, and it breathed out smoke a slashing swort, and it breathed out smoke embeds a lobester's pincer magnified 20 between the state of the state of the state phantic, with claws like the prongs of a cases above.

And the Gocko was only one of many other-worldly beasts encountered during the sum total of 42 chapters of Flash Gordon serials. There was

A ferocious zebra-striped bear ... strange beasts called Tigrons ... an actodyl, an actual reptile from India; a lizard with sall-like fins three times the length of its body





. . . and hawkmen, lionmen, monkeymen

flash gordon speaks to YOU

Flash Gordon still lives, in the person of Buster Crabbe, and just recently he was visited backstage in his dressingroom at the AquaRama in New York, where his fan Sam Sherman obtained this exclusive interview for FAMOUS MONSTERS:

Sam: "Mr. Crabbe, I've heard you called The King of the Sound Serials. Besides the three Flash Gordons, bow many did you Buster Crabbe: "Just call me Buster, Sam, Why, I made 7 others-10 in all, In between stints as Flash Gordon. I doubled Sam: "And you also played Tarzan,

didn't you?" didn't you?"

Buster: "Yes, in 1934. The serial was called TARZAN THE FEARLESS. I also made RED BARRY, and my last appear-

ance in a 'cliff-hanger' was in 1951, when I made KING OF THE CONGO, also known as THE MIGHTY THUNDA. Today (says Sam), even without make-

up, Buster looks better than he did in many of his old films, and could easily be Flash Gordon again for his loyal fans. (Ask Dad.

there's always the reel one-

he was probably one.) The Moon and Mars and Venus look like rospects for actual conquest early in the lives of FM's young readers, but that still leaves faraway planets like Saturn, Uranua, Neptune and Pluto for Flash Gordon to get a job on as Trouble Shooter, First Class. And, of course, when we run out of real

as Buck Rogers! Made the one and only BUCK ROGERS serial in 1939."

-even tree-men!











-These are the ingredients of a trio of terror films which are presently paralyzing picturegoers in darkened auditerroriums thruout the land.



Invitation to a Coffee Clutch.

Hondy Item to have cround the house—if you have an appetite for lady-fingers. Obviously, Richard Carlson doesn't. He'll naw be playing a different tune on that



Haunts for the morey.—The sea is Death's domain ... the souls of the drowned seck rest in vain ... the cuphorats of Davy Jones' locker contain many skeletons still restless with the simulacrum of life. Such as these are.—

THE TORMENTED!
Richard Carlson, too, is tormented. He fought a frog-horror in THE MAZE, a

toger a registeror in TAR. STARLE, a symptomy in TAR. STARLE, a symptomic in TC AME FROM FIRE STACE, even THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON itself. Now, he hatther an inner horso-miss of a woman who loved him to plunge to her death. And now not only dose he have pungs of removes to contend with; weens, he has the semi-materialized ectoplasm of a woman scored who sources him.

call of the dead

a watery grave because Carison withheld the hand that could have saved her, her dying screams echoed in his ears. Now, as his wedding day to another woman spproaches, strange things begin to happen. In the howle of the sea wind, Carlson hears his name called by the voice of Vi; V; who have the country of the country of the country of the The presence of Vi is fell; ss Carlson and

his hride-to-be walk on the lonely stretches of sand and phantom footprints materialize on the damp shore beside them.

Rooms suddenly grow chill...

Candles inexplicably are snuffed out...

Fresh flowers wither as the asphyxiated by a hreath from bevond...

hy a hreath from beyond...

And Carlson fears for his sanity when he sees the wedding ring of his future wife snatched into space hy an invisible hand!

Carlson indulges in premeditated murder to silence a linkermaler who had deduced his guilty accret, and goes to his wedding the control of th

Two for the show— This is the second time THE LOST WORLD has been found. In 1924 it satounded the silent screen, the stereophonic sounds in the theaters of the nation coming from the throats of autonished viewers who gasped at the hlack-&-white





And to think this guy used to think he had it rasgh during the rusk haur in the subway! Now he knows what it's like during the Crusk Hour in thu Sab Way as CALTIKI engulfs another victim.

sight of prehistoric pterodactyls, brontosaurs, allosaurs and a variety of animated dinosaurs coming to life.

dinosaurs coming to life.

Today, THE LOST WORLD "writhes" again—this time in color, widescreen and length of the color of

strange sights

The Lost World is a land of weird vegetation, where a tulip-like vegetable may suddenly come to life and swallow a man ... where bizarre colors clash on the intertwining vines of contorted trees . . . where giant trandoor spiders trap unwary victims ... and the nite is rent by the agonizing death-cries of creatures of incredible size In the new LOST WORLD we are treated to the Cave of Fire, the Passageway of the Tentacles, the Gravevard of the Damned and the Wall of Death, Prehistoric monsters, of course, abound and bound. And, at the end, there is the strong suggestion of a sequel (SUDDENLY, LAST WORLD?) as a Baby Tyrannosaurux Rex hatches from an egg and Prof. Challenger indicates be is going to transport the young carnivore back to modern London!

Three to make rotty— Like, man, this CALTIKI (THE UNDYING MONSTER) is something from Munmwayille, When an

American named Bob, who is pert of an arobeological expedition in the Mexican jungle, is lowered with diving equipment into a subturranean pool, be soon gives the alarm signal, but afthe be is hastily pulled to the surface he is already dead—and his body has been mummified!

The tentacles of a monster emerge from the black waters, seizing several natives. A German member of the exploratory team, Max, fights off the creature, but where it touched his body he is horribly disfigured.

growing horror

Max returns to Mexico City to recuperate. In the bospital it is discovered that the tissue from the tentacle multiplies under

radiation.

In 607 AD a nadioactive meteoroid passed near the earth, triggering the growth of a primitive fiesh-scaling cell-structure which grew to such proportions that it menaced the Mayans, who deserted the town of Tikel, leaving it to Caltiki, Goddess of Death. Now, the radioactive stone from space is once again nearing Kartb, nurturing the slumbering monester with its mutating

rays.

Caltiki splits and multiplies and invades

the country

Tanks and flame-throwers are rushed to
combat this menace from Mayan times.

In the midst of the bolocaust, Max goes

mad and—

If you want to find out what happens, dig up your Four (Bits) to Go!





by popular demand, many well-known monster and maryel movies have been remade. DONOVAN'S BRAIN, THE BAT, THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND, DRACULA. FRANKENSTEIN. THE MUMMY. THE UNHOLY 3, to name a "The mad mob falls upon the madm and destroys him." we reported in FM 49 few. And so it was, in 1943, that THE PHAN-TOM OF THE OPERA was brought to life for

the second time. Last issue you read in these pages how Lon Chaney played him—now turn back the clock 17 years to the time Claude Rains donned the Phantom Mask! and aestroys him," we reported in FM 49 as we described the closing moments of the climas of the 1925 version. End is no more. The Phantom has passed into legend. Ah, but can you keep a good phantom down? Or a bad one!! In the midst of West W. down: Or a bas one:
In the midst of World War II, the Phantom returned—a horror to take America's
mind for a moment off horrors like Huller

and the Nazi Beasts.



Claude Rains, as Erique Claudin, chakes Miles Mander in the 1943 movie version.

the phantom strikes

The remake of Gaston Leroux PHAN-TOM OF FILE OPERA was in Technicolor. It starred Claude Raine as the Phantom centre of the Company of the C Worlds, Strange are the ways of Fate!

man into phantom

Erique Claudin was not born a monster, a cruel quirk of life turned him into one. For some years he was a respectable violinist in the orchestra of the Paris Opern, until his hands became crippled by artirults and he of the paris of the paris of the paris he of the paris of the paris of the head of the paris of the paris of the daughter Christine to continue her voicetraining exercises, and so he offered for sale his life's work, a piano concerto, to a pub-



The unscrupulous publisher stole his score.
When Claudin learns of the theft, he is rightfully infuriated Confronting the thief, he gets into a fight with him. Accidentally, the publisher is killed—and Claudin, disfigured for life when the publisher's series of the publisher is killed—and claudin, disfigured for life when the publisher's series.

tary hurls said in his face!

Mad with pain and seeking to escape the police, Claudin flees to the Paris Open house and hides himself deep beneath the main floor in the maze of catacombs which bonevcomb the dark acree of subternmean

mystery.

Man no longer, pain and peril have turned him into a monster. The acid has done more than est away his face, it has corroded his brain. Erique Claudin is now mad. And the fires of his madness are fanned higher when he hears his stolen music being performed in the Opera!

Claudin sends a message to the manager of the Opera instructing him to replace in leading female singer with Christine. But the manager does not do as he says, and Claudin repeats with an enraged wurning demonating that his daughter be given the principal singing role. When his warning is ignored, he makes good his threat.

The main chandelier, a heavy fixture of brittle glass hanging dangerously over the



Cloude Rains pulls his coat callor up around his throat and prepares for a long cold night of haunting in the catacombs.

Behind that mash is the face of a saint — a Saint Bernard! Daggane frightening, that's far sure.



beads of the audience, sways as Claudin secretly manipulates it, and, suddenly, breaks loose from its fastening! The great mass of glass plummets to the

floor like an elevator with its cable cut!
Screens drown out the singers on the
stage as insceen members of the audience
are mainred and crushed in their seats, some
turned in a terrifying instant to mosning
bodies, others liteless bloody corpuss.
It is an awful thing the Phantom has
drome-small it is not the last.

the hands of erique

Like the Hunds of Orlac, the hands of Erique now become killer's hands. For, when his further demands are flouted, be strangles first the chief femals singer and then her maid! The musician's hands which once gently held a violin have become the violent instruments of murder. His reason is now entirely gone. The

Phantom kidnaps his own daughter. Christine is unaware that this horrible creature is ber father for he hides his awful disfigurement behind a mask.

But in the mixturals climar Christine un-

But in the picture's climax, Christine unmarks the scarfaced Claudin in a scane that hrought screams as it did 18 years before. Although his make-up was nothing like Lon Chaney's, Claude Rains was a terrifying sight to behold, and not only did his daughter nearly faint, but all the faint-hearted people in the live theater audience!

end of the phantom?

In the nick of time, Christine's lover and a detective from the Franch Police track the Phantom to his lair and there poor demonted Brique Claudin meets his end when a shot fired by the detective causes a cave-in of the age-weakened walls of the ancient catsoomie.

a snot irred by the desecutive causes it caves in of the age-weakened walls of the ancient catscombs. . . His end? Who can say for sure. Lon Chaney and Claude Rains "died" in the role of the Phantom, but rumor bath it that the Phantom of the Opers, crushed to

that the Fhantom of the Opera, stusmed to the earth, will rise again in 1951, courtesy of Hammer Productions of England. Who will be be—Christopher Lee? Anton Diffring? Lon Chaney Jr? One thing's for certain: FAMOUS MON-STERS: Saithful readers will be among the

STERS' faithful readers will be among the first human beings (?) in the world to get the facts!







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(C) MEMBERSHIP CARD
—why, friend, you're just like a Murrmy without his tane leaves
the invisible Mae trying to comb

his hair in floor of a mirror with the hair in floor of a mirror with the hair in floor of a mirror with the hair in floor of the hair in the hair in

Say, I've been missing a bat—I mean a bet. You bet your life I want to be one of the gasg Hene's my 75c to register me as a Vice-President of the FAMOUS MONSTESS CLUB and seed me all the goodes lated above, glas I understand I have the printings of submitting a free ad, and might even get my picture pub.

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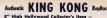
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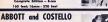


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